

**CONFIDENTIAL**OLL 85-1273  
11 April 1985*SSL*

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT:** Briefing on South Africa for Robin Cleveland,  
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) Staffer

1. On 11 April 1985, SSCI staffer Robin Cleveland was briefed on the current situation in South Africa by DI/ALA analysts [redacted]. The 1 1/2 hour briefing took place in 7B02. [redacted] also attended. [redacted]

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2. Ms. Cleveland requested the briefing as a means of becoming familiar with the South African scene. SSCI Member Mitch McConnell (R., KY) instructed her to become conversant with major development there. The briefers first discussed the various reformist efforts undertaken by the South African government since the race riots of 1976-7. The briefing included basic information about the establishment and status of black townships and the four independent homelands; ethnic, religious, tribal, and language divisions; and key changes in the government's apartheid policies over the last five years. The briefers pointed out that the white minority government under President Botha is committed to political reforms but cannot make major concessions to blacks because of a potential white backlash. [redacted]

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3. Economic topics discussed included difficult problems in trying to improve that economic plight of blacks, the ongoing effort to fight persistent double-digit inflation, growing unemployment, and the wide disparity in government spending for black and white educational systems. The impact of possible U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa was also considered along with evidence of growing black impatience with the role of U.S. and other Western investment in the country. All signs suggest a continuing tense relationship between whites and blacks in South Africa. [redacted]

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3. Ms. Cleveland expressed full satisfaction with the briefing and complimented the briefers on their expertise. [redacted]

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Liaison Division  
Office of Legislative Liaison

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*Chief, Liaison Division, OLL*

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